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TO:	Examiner Lynda C. Jasmin	FAX: 703-872-9306
FROM:	Chipo Jolibois	FAX: 215-592-2682 PHONE: 215-619-5992
DATE:	April 29, 2004	
NUMBER OF PAGES (Including This Cover Sheet):		17

RE: Patent Application No. 09/766,435

Attached, please find a response for the above-mentioned patent application.

Regards,


 Chipo M. Jolibois

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OFFICIAL**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Atty Docket No. A01014

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In re application of: John Michael Friel

: Confirmation No: 7158
Serial No.: 09/766,435 : Group Art Unit: 3627
Filed: 01/19/01 : Examiner: Lynda C. Jasmin

For: **DISTRIBUTED PAINT MANUFACTURING SYSTEM**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following correspondence is being sent by facsimile to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated next to my signature below:

- (1) Amendment and response to Office Action Mailed 3/4/04
- (2) Request for Continued Examination
- (3) Terminal Disclaimer (2 copies)
- (4) Assignment of United States Patent Application No.09/766,435

April 29, 2004
DateChipo M. Jolibois
Chipo M. Jolibois

Attorney Docket No: DN A01014**Patent****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re application of: John Michael Friel****Serial No.: 09/766,435****Group Art Unit: 3627****Filed: 1/19/01****Examiner: Lynda Jasmin****For: DISTRIBUTED PAINT MANUFACTURING SYSTEM**

Commissioner for Patents
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111

This is in response to the Office Action in the above-referenced application, mailed March 4, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the Amendment, reconsider the pending claims in view of the Amendment and accompanying Response, and pass the claims to allowance.

CLAIM LISTING begins on page 2 of this paper.**RESPONSE** begin on page 5 of this paper.**CONCLUSION** begins on page 6 of this paper.

wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a second prepaint ratio;
collecting said second base paint at an output of said mixing system;
wherein said first prepaint ratio and said second prepaint ratio are determined at a computer
system; and
wherein said first prepaint ratio is different from said second prepaint ratio.

32. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein at least one of said first base paint and said second
base paint further comprises an associative thickener.

33. (new) A method for manufacturing a line of paint products from a limited set of prepaints
comprising:
providing a set of different but mutually compatible prepaints, sufficient to form at least one
paint line, which set comprises:
(1) at least one fluid white-opacifying pigment prepaint,
(2) at least one fluid extender pigment prepaint that has a PVC of from about 40 to
100% and volume solids of from about 35 to about 65%,
(3) at least one fluid polymeric binder prepaint, and
(4) at least one additional, different fluid prepaint selected from the group consisting
of said fluid white-opacifying pigment prepaint, said fluid extender pigment prepaint, and
said fluid polymeric binder prepaint;
receiving each of said fluid prepaints at one of several inputs of a fluid component mixing
system;
mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a first base paint,
wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a first prepaint ratio;
collecting said first base paint at an output of said mixing system;
mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a second base paint;
wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a second prepaint ratio;
collecting said second base paint at an output of said mixing system;
wherein said first prepaint ratio and said second prepaint ratio are determined at a computer
system; and
wherein said first prepaint ratio is different from said second prepaint ratio.

34. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein at least one of said first base paint and said second base paint further comprises an associative thickener.